

Application Serial No. 09/975,600

REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed February 17, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8-13, 16, 20-25, 29, and 31-41 have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice to the filing of one or more applications based on the subject matter of these claims. Claims 3, 7, 14, 15, 17, 18, 26, and 30 have been amended. The specification has also been amended. Claims 3-5, 7, 14-15, 17-19, 26-28, 30, 42-55 remain pending in the application (10 independent claims, 27 claims total).

Previous Election

Applicants acknowledge that claims 31-41 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a previously-filed election.

Objection to the Disclosure

The Examiner objects to various informalities in the specification on pages 10 and 24. The present Amendment addresses these informalities by amending the specification as suggested by the Examiner.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings, arguing that the figures must show openings partially or completely filled with vibration-dampening material such as plastic or the like. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection, as an individual skilled in the art would understand, from the drawings and specification as filed, the meaning of "partially or

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completely filled opening." Nevertheless, Figure 12 (a substitute of which is attached) and the corresponding section of the specification, have been amended to further clarify this phrase. No new matter has been added.

Claim 16 and 24 Informalities

The Examiner objects to claim 16 due to lack of antecedent basis, and has rejected to claim 24 due to recitation of an industry standard. Both claims 16 and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice by the present Amendment, and this objection is therefore rendered moot.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 6, 20, and 29 stand rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 9-222248. Claims 8-12, 16, and 21-25 stand rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over this same reference.

Each of these claims has been cancelled without prejudice by the present Amendment. These rejections are therefore rendered moot.

Claim Objections

Claims 3-5, 7, 13-15, 17-19, 26-28, and 30 stand objected to, but the Examiner has stated that they would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate their respective base claims and any intervening claims. These claims have been amended accordingly.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance at the Examiner's earliest convenience. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would advance prosecution of this Application in any way.

This statement does NOT authorize charge of the issue fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fee specifically authorized herewith, or any deficiency in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith or concerning any paper filed hereafter, and which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.18 (deficiency only) now or hereafter relative to this Application and the resulting Official document under 37 C.F.R. §1.20, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 19-2814 for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/31/05

By: 
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